

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NY

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC

CHMAAGCHINA

COMUSTDC

CDR USACC TAIWAN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NO. 5

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SUMMARY: THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AS YET OF A REPLACEMENT FOR PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI DESPITE SIGNS THAT A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WAS HELD RECENTLY. THE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN HAS TURNED ITS ATTENTION TOWARDS SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED IN THE FEBRUARY RED FLAG. EXTERNALLY, THE PRC MEDIA'S EMPHASIS HAS CONTINUED ON ANTI-SOVIET INVECTIVE, WITH DENUNCIATIONS OF SOVIET DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES ABROAD. THE OTHER MAJOR CHINESE NEW YEAR'S EVENT HAS BEEN THE RETURN TO QUEMOY BY BOAT OF SIX FORMER KMT PRISONERS IN THE CONTINUATION OF PEKING'S UNITED FRONT OFFENSIVE AGAINST TAIWAN. END SUMMARY

1. NO ANNOUNCEMENT YET ON CHOU'S SUCCESSOR

DESPITE SIGNS THAT A HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP MEETING WAS RECENTLY HELD, THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YET ON A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE REGIME HAS CONCLUDED A PARTY PLENUM AND IS NOW WAITING TO HOLD A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS TO APPROVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PREMIER AND THE LAUNCHING OF THE NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES AT THE CENTER WERE ALMOST NON-

EXISTENT LAST WEEK. (HUA KUO-FENG WAS THE ONLY POLITBURO MEMBER TO APPEAR PUBLICLY IN PEKING.) WHILE THE LEADERSHIP MIGHT BE TAKING A WELL-DESERVED REST FOR SPRING FESTIVAL (CHINESE NEW YEAR), THE FACT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES SINCE CHOU'S FUNERAL IN MID-JANUARY --TNG HSIAO-PING, IN PARTICULAR, HAS NOT APPEARED SINCE THEN--POINTS ONCE AGAIN TO BEHIND-THE-SCENES MEETINGS TO SORT OUT PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE PREMIER'S DEMISE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

### 3. EDUCATION CAMPAIGN SPREADS TO SCIENTISTS

AT LEAST TWO ARTICLES IN THE NEWLY-RELEASED FEBRUARY RED FLAG INDICATE AN EFFORT TO DRAG RECALCITRANT ELEMENTS IN PRC SCIENTIFIC CIRCLES INTO THE CURRENT DEBATE ON EDUCATION. THE LEAD ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY THE MASS CRITICISM GROUP OF PEKING AND TSINGHUA UNIVERSITIES AND REPRINTED IN HONG KONG'S WEN WEI PAO, ACCUSES THE SCIENCE FIELD OF HARBORING THE SAME RIGHT-DEVIATIONIST WIND PREVIOUSLY CRITICIZED IN EDUCATIONAL CIRCLES AND CHARGES THAT SOME SCIENTISTS ARE EVEN MORE BLATANT THAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS IN RESISTING PARTY CONTROL OF THEIR WORK. THE SECOND ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY CHENG YUEH, ALSO SINGLES OUT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CIRCLES AS A SOURCE OF RESISTANCE TO THE REVOLUTIONARY LINE. IT APPEARS THAT THE PARTY, HAVING APPARENTLY RESOLVED THE MAJOR ISSUES IN THE EDUCATION DEBATE, IS NOW TURNING ITS ATTENTION TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

### 4. CHENG TU MR HAS NEW COMMANDER

LIU HSING-YUAN, WHO UNTIL LAST FALL WAS PARTY FIRST SECRETARY IN SZECHUAN, WAS IDENTIFIED LAST WEEK IN HIS NEW POSITION OF COMMANDER OF THE CHENG TU MILITARY REGION. HE REPLACES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHIN CHI-WEI, WHO HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PEKING AND MAY NOW BE PEKING MR COMMANDER (75 WR 53). LIU IS A PROFESSIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSAR WHO HAD NEVER PREVIOUSLY HELD A COMMAND. HIS TRANSFER LARGELY REMOVES HIM FROM THE POLITICAL DUTIES HE ASSUMED, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER PLA LEADERS, DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION (HONG KONG 1084). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

5. AT THE SAME TIME, HSU MENG-HSIA, WHO WAS PROMOTED TO BE A SZECHUAN PROVINCIAL PARTY SECRETARY LAST NOVEMBER, HAS NOW BEEN IDENTIFIED AS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF CHENG TU AND CHAIRMAN OF ITS REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE. HSU IS A VETERAN SZECHUAN CADRE WHO DISAPPEARED DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND WAS REHABILITATED IN 1973 (75 HONG KONG 13462). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

6. MILITIA AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

A JANUARY 27 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE SOUNDED A SLIGHTLY DEFENSIVE NOTE IN DESCRIBING THE URBAN MILITIA AS A NECESSARY COMPONENT--ALONG WITH THE ARMY AND THE POLICE--IN MAINTAINING SOCIAL ORDER. THE CONTROVERSY IN EDUCATION HAS BROUGHT FORTH A SPATE OF ARTICLES DEFENDING THE FRUITS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, AND THIS ARTICLE, DESCRIBING THE MILITIA AS A "VICTORIOUS RESULT" OF THAT REVOLUTION, IS IN A SIMILAR VEIN. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

7. RURAL RECTIFICATION

A CONTINUING THEME SINCE THE TACHAI CONFERENCE LAST OCTOBER IS THE NEED FOR PARTY RECTIFICATION IN THE RURAL AREAS TO SMOOTH THE WAY FOR THE EXPECTED AGRICULTURAL INCREASES ON THE FARMS. LAST WEEK TROUBLED YUNNAN (WR 4) HELD ITS FIRST MEETING OF PROVINCIAL, PREFECTURAL, COUNTY AND COMMUNE CADRES SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION TO DISCUSS PARTY RECTIFICATION (RADIO YUNNA, JANUARY 28). A YUNNAN BROADCAST THE FOLLOWING DAY HAD CADRES BLAMING LIN PIAO'S ERRONEOUS LINE FOR THEIR PAST ERRORS AND MAKING AN APPEAL FOR UNITY, WHILE RADIO HUNAN JANUARY 27 CALLED FOR "OPEN-DOOR RECTIFICATION," I.E., ALLOWING THE MASSES FREE REIGN TO CRITICIZE COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES. ON THIS POINT, RATHER UNDERSTANDABLY, SOME COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE "NOT VERY UNANIMOUS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8979  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION USUN NY  
FBIS OKINAWA  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
COMIPAC  
CHMAAGCHINA  
COMUSTDC  
CDR USACC TAIWAN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

8. THE UNITED STATES

NCNA'S ONLY COMMENTARIES ON THE US DURING THE WEEK EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER US MILITARY CAPABILITY CITING REMARKS OF VARIOUS DOD OFFICIALS PRIMARILY IN HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TESTIMONY AND SUMMARIZING THE FY-77 DOD REPORT TO CONGRESS. NCNA FAVORABLY CARRIED THE REPORTS'S COMMENTS ON THE NEED TO CONTINUE STRENGTHENING NATO, THE "VITAL ROLE" OF JAPAN IN REGIONAL STABILITY AND US ATTEMPTS TO "LIMIT

SOVIET INFLUENCE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE WAS ON THE CONTINUATION OF US TROOPS IN KOREA WHICH THE ARTICLE CONSIDERED AS DESIGNED "TO OBSTRUCT THE INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA" (NCNA JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 1) UNCLASSIFIED

#### 9. SOVIETS

THE PRC HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED, BOTH IN TONE AND VOLUME, ITS ALREADY COPIOUS FLOW OF ANTI-SOVIET MEDIA OUTPUT, INCLUDING A PEKING BROADCAST REPORTING THE STRENGTHENING OF PRC FORCES ALONG THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER IN SINKIANG. SEVERAL LENGTHY COMMENTARIES HAVE DEPICTED SOVIET ECONOMIC POLICIES IN STRONG AND HARSH CAPITALISTIC COLORS, REPEATING STANDARD CHARGES OF INCREASED CENTRALIZATION, EMERGENCE OF A CAPITALISTIC-MONOPOLY BOURGEOISIE CLASS AND SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.

10. THE HARSHEST PRC MEDIA ATTACKS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR SOVIET POLICIES AND ACTIONS ABROAD. THERE IS A VIRTUAL FLOOD OF REPORTS FROM VARIOUS WESTERN EUROPEAN, ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER SOVIET MILITARY AND/OR POLITICAL THREATS. MRS. THATCHER'S RECENT BLAST AT THE SOVIETS WAS QUICKLY SEIZED UPON BY THE CHINESE MEDIA, WHICH HAVE CASTIGATED THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR COUNTER-ATTACK ON THE BRITISH CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER.

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11. THE RECENT STATEMENT BY THE GRANDSON OF WINSTON CHURCHILL HAS ENDEARED HIM TO THE CHINESE, AND NCNA HAS DEVOTED SEVERAL LENGTHY ITEMS TO HIS CALL FOR GREATER WESTERN AWARENESS OF THE SOVIET EXPANSIONIST THREAT, NOTED HIS COMPARISONS OF TODAY'S SITUATION WITH THE APPEASEMENT MOOD OF THE 1930'S AND HIS GRANDFATHER'S WARNING AGAINST HITLER. ONE NCNA ARTICLE SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT CHURCHILL'S CONTENTION THAT "AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO DEFEND EUROPE MAY BE WITHDRAWN IF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TAKE A FREE RIDE ON THE AMERICANS."

12. A PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE OF FEBRUARY 1 CONDEMNS SOVIET MUNITIONS SALES, CHARGING THAT THE "SUPER MUNITIONS MERCHANTS" DUMP ARMS IN THE THIRD WORLD. IT CITES MOSCOW'S TRADE WITH INDIA, ITS PROBLEM WITH EGYPT, AND RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA IN LINKING MOSCOW'S PURSUIT OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY ADVANTAGES WITH ITS DISPATCH OF MILITARY ARMS EXPERTS AND "ADVISORS."

#### 13. TAIWAN

PEKING'S STEPPED-UP UNITED-FRONT OFFENSIVE AGAINST TAIWAN CONTINUES WITH FACILITATION OF TRAVEL FOR SIX MORE AMNESTIED KMT PERSONNEL WISHING TO JOIN RELATIVES ON TAIWAN. FOLLOWING

THE JANUARY 29 NCNA ANNOUNCEMENT, LOCAL PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED PHOTOS OF THE TAIWAN-BOUND GROUP AS THEY ENPLANED IN PEKING FOR AMOY AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT FEBRUARY 2 SENDOFF VIA BOAT FOR QUEMOY. THUS FAR, PRC MEDIA HAVE NOT REPORTED THE GRC RECEPTION FOR THE THREE "US-CHIANG ARMED AGENTS" RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER AND THE THREE FORMER KMT OFFICIALS "AT OR ABOVE THE REGIMENTAL LEVEL." THE COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP AND THEIR MODE OF TRAVEL SUGGEST THAT THIS TIME PEKING IS MAKING A SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO FORCE GRC ACCEPTANCE OF THE RELEASEES RATHER THEN MERELY SCORING MORE PROPAGANDA POINTS. THUS FAR, THREE MORE EX-KMT OFFICIALS, WHO ARRIVED IN HONG KONG ON JANUARY 29 TO JOIN RELATIVES HERE, HAVE INDICATED NO PLANS TO TRAVEL ON TO TAIWAN, AND THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT THEY WILL SEEK TO REMIAN IN HONG KONG. MEANWHILE, PEC MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO POINT OUT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WOES OF TAIWAN UNDER THE "CHIANG CLIQUE" (HONG KONG 1085 AND NCNA, JANAURY 26-FEBRUARY 3) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

14. AFRICA

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PRC MEDIA HAVE KEPT UP THEIR FOCUS ON SOVIET MOVES IN AFRICA. A FEBRUARY 2 NCNA REPORT ZEROED IN ON AN IZVESTIA ARTICLE OF JANUARY 29 WHICH CONTENDEED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ALWAYS STOOD FOR PEACE IN ANGOLA AND NEVER OPPOESD THE SEARCH FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT THERE. MAINTAINING THAT THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE SOVIETS' "USUAL PRATIVE TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC," NCNA NOTED REPORTS OF SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED THE MPLA, CITED MOSCOW'S RECOGNITION OF ONE OF THREE ANGOLAN CONTENDERS FOR POWER, MENTIONED BREZHEV'S "PUBLIC RIDICULE" OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S INVITATION TO DISCUSS ANGOLA AND REPEATED ITS ASSERTION THAT MOSCOW ATTEMPTS TO SPLIT AFRICAN UNITY. DURING THE WEEK NCNA ALSO CARRIED THE USUAL PLETHORA OF FOREIGN AND AFRICAN LEADERS' CONDEMNATION OF SOVEIT POLICIES TOWARD ANGOLA (NCNA, JANUARY 23-FEBRUARY 3). UNCLASSIFIED

15. PEKING HAS ALSO DISPATCHED ITS FIRST AMBASSADOR TO THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY OF GUINEA-BISSAU. ACCORDING TO NCNA, CHIA HUAL-CHI DEPARTED PEKING FOR POST TN FEBRUAY 3. UNCLASSIFIED

16. SOUTH ASIA

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S TAKEOVER OF THE TAMIL NADU STATE WAS REPORTED BY NCNA, WHICH CLAIMED THAT THE GOI ACTION WAS DESIGNED TO "SUPPRESS THE MASSES OF PEOPLE AND OPPOSTIONISTS" AND THAT THE GOI WAS MAKING "WANTON ARRESTS" UNDER THE INTERNAL SECRTUITY ACT IN ONE OF TWO STATES NOT CONTROLLED

BY THE RULING CONGRESS PRTY. NCNA ALSO REPORTED THAT INDIA'S EXTERNAL TRADE DEFICIT HAD VASTLY INCREASED AND POINTED OUT THAT THE GOI WAS SEEKING ADDITIONAL FOREIGN LOANS, WHICH WOULD ONLY ADD TO ITS ANNUAL DEBT PAYMENTS. ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH ASIA, NCNA NOTED POSITIVELY THE SRI LANKAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO BANGKOK AND RANGOON, MENTIONING THE REAFFIRMATION OF THESE COUNTRIES' SUPPORT FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT AND CONCERN FOR GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN THE OCEAN (NCNA, JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2) UNCLASSIFIED

17. INDONESIA AND TIMOR

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FOLLOWING SEVERAL WEEKS OF SILENCE NCNA JANUARY 29 REITERATED ITS EARLIER DEMANDS THAT INDONESIAN FORCES WITHDRAW FROM EAST TIMOR. IN HARSH LANGUAGE, THE CORRESPONDENT'S ARTICLE TERMED THE INDONESIAN ACTIONS "CRIMINAL AGGRESSION" AND THE GOI'S COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION "LIES". THE ARTICLE AGAIN PLEDGED THE "RESOLUTE SUPPORT" OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT FOR THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE TIMORESE AND CITED STATEMENTS MADE BY FRETELIN LEADER LOBATO IN DARWIN. NCNA ALSO CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM THE NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE BY INDONESIAN COMMUNIST LEADER (RESIDENT IN PEKING) ADJITOROP, WHICH ALSO CRITICIZED THE GOI'S "LARGE-SCALE AGGRESSION" IN EAST TIMOR (NCNA, JANUARY 29). UNCLASSIFIED  
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